

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

During the past year MOS has continued to meet the requirements of our mission while also meeting the needs of our members. Thanks to the many volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts, we are a dynamic organization that continues to change proportionally with our environment.

This year's conference in Ocean City was a resounding success — one that was scheduled in February when weather could have hampered attendance. Weather, however, was largely accommodating as were the birds at Assateague: Northern Saw-whet Owl and Lark Sparrow, as well as two Razorbills at the inlets, were seen by many. Our planned pelagic, however, did not occur due to rough seas. Our keynote was provided by David Brinker of MD DNR where he discussed dynamics in Northern Goshawk life histories. Maryanne Dolan provided a workshop on waterfowl and there were many to be seen afterwards.

Awards included Outstanding Service to our Records Committee Secretary, Phil Davis, and Exceptional Achievement Awards to our outgoing Yellowthroat editor and designer, Lydia Suzanne Probst and Lydia Schindler, respectively. Valued Service Awards went to both Kurt Schwarz and Tom Alderson for their work in keeping a vigilant approach to conservation issues not only in Maryland, but throughout the nation and the world where birds are concerned. Sincere thanks go out to all of you!

Sadly, we lost a past president, and longtime servant of the Society, Mr. John Malcolm. John has been involved with MOS for decades and had taken the Awards Committee to new levels because of his dedication and passionate service. John strongly believed that volunteers should be well recognized for all they do and he saw to it that officers and others were recognized for their efforts. John also did an excellent job of jurying the MOS pin contest where many anonymous judges were given objective criteria with which to score each entry. If all of this wasn't enough he also was the steward of the Merchandise Committee. John is survived by his partner Joy Aso and will be sorely missed.

Lastly, I want to thank many who give their service to the Society expecting nothing in return. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and without them MOS does not exist. Thanks go out to all of you, especially Janet Shields, Dave Webb and our new president, Maureen Harvey. Thanks everyone for a successful term.

Mark S. Johnson, President

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

In even this truncated "year" the Conservation Committee has been quite active. Since the last meeting, we have submitted 22 letters, mostly at the Federal level. Comment letters have been directed to the Bureau of Land Management (2), the Department of the Navy (1), the Forest Service (2), the National Park Service (3), the Fish and Wildlife Service (8), Maryland's U.S. Senators (1), the entire Maryland U.S. Congressional Delegation (1), the Bureau of Off-Shore Energy, Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (1), the Army Corps of Engineers (1), and Charles County Commissioners (1). Topics included off-road vehicles, wind